

UUSIS NEWS & VIEWS

The Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford

JULY AND AUGUST 2010

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*The Pastoral Care on call person
for
July is Alfa Drent at
203-323-9488
and
August is Amy Good at
203-981-2382.*



Rev. Ron will still be available for emergencies over the summer. Also, feel free to contact Julie Punishill at 617-851-9773 or jpunishill@mac.com.

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

*Sundays at 10:00AM, except as otherwise noted.
Childcare is available in the Religious Education Building.*

7/4: Bob Hawley, "Thomas Jefferson and the UU"

The Famous UUs website says "Jefferson was a Unitarian in theology, though not in church membership." On this Independence Day, Bob Hawley will discuss why UUs, or at least some of them, claim Jefferson as a Unitarian, and how this resulted in controversy within the UUA. He will close the service by reading the Declaration of Independence.

7/11: Justice Sunday

Leslie Weinberg and Bob Nixon will celebrate Justice Sunday and the economic justice work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which includes fighting for the rights of workers in the "informal" economy.

7/18: Ira Bloom, "Cyber Warfare"

7/25: Rolf Maurer, "The Baby, the General and the Need To Be Kind"

8/1: Maureen Ferrara and Eleanor Dennis, Singing the Journey

Maureen Ferrara and Eleanor Dennis will introduce our UU hymnal supplement and its upbeat, interesting and popular tunes for our singing pleasure.

8/8: Rev. Craig Hirschberg, "It's Only Change"

Transition to a new minister is one of the most exciting and stressful times in a congregation. This Sunday, we will explore the dynamics of such change in a congregation and learn about the ministerial search process upon which our congregation is about to embark. There will be a question and answer time during coffee hour. Please come meet our UUA District Ministerial Settlement Representative, Rev. Craig Hirschberg as she answers all those questions about a ministerial search.

8/15: Maureen Ferrara and Eleanor Dennis, "Mother Spirit, Father Spirit"


Eleanor Dennis and Maureen Ferrara will collaborate their talents for this special musical summer service.

8/22: Poem Alley, "A Celebration of Short Poetry"

8/29: Tara Fleck, "Strength Can Make You Weak"

Speaking through examples in her personal life, especially the sudden loss of her daughter, Tara will discuss how sometimes when you are strong and determined it can make you weak and lonely.

JULY AND AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				July 1	2	3
4	 <p><u>July Birthdays</u> 9 <i>Mike Limone</i> 10 <i>Blair Ednie</i> 13 <i>Lee Sullivan</i> 15 <i>Silvia Fernandez-Stein</i> 19 <i>Eleanor Dennis</i> 22 <i>Ray McAndrew</i> 23 <i>Leslie Weinberg</i> 24 <i>Ellie DeRidder</i></p>		7	8	9 Rental, Sanctuary, 6:00-7:00pm	10 Rental, Sanctuary and Social Room, 11:00am- 2:00pm
11	<p><u>August Birthdays</u> 2 <i>Howard Woodham</i> 6 <i>Diane Montgomery</i> 7 <i>Bob Hardin</i> 21 <i>Lenny Van Reed</i></p>		14	15	16 Welcome Dinner, Social Room, 4:00pm set- up/6:30pm Dinner	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
August 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Welcome Dinner, Social Room, 4:00pm set- up/6:30pm Dinner	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOTE: This calendar has all events as listed by the time of publication. Please check with the Administrator at 203-348-0708 or admin@uusis.org if you wish to schedule an event.

Recurring:
Mon. - Fri.: Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Room, 7:30-8:30AM
Sat.: Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Room, 9:00-10:00AM
Sat.: Igreja Do Evangelho Quadrangular, Sanctuary & Social Room, 6:00PM-∞

July & August Anniversaries
July 4 Tara Fleck and Joe Gonzalez, Jr.
Aug. 9 Diane and Claude Montgomery
Aug. 20 Roseanne and Frank George
Aug. 31 Daniel Beltran and Armando Calderon

Ron's Report

One of my great inspirations is Discordian tradition, which reverences Eris, Greek Goddess of discord and chaos. Eris's devotees remind us that life with an overabundance of order and predictability would be awfully boring. In *Principia Discordia*, lamentably one of the few sacred texts in the righteous spirit of the Marx Brothers, we read:

The human race will begin solving it's problems on the day that it ceases taking itself so seriously....

If you can master nonsense as well as you have already learned to master sense, then each will expose the other for what it is: absurdity. From that moment of illumination, a man begins to be free regardless of his surroundings. He becomes free to play order games and change them at will. He becomes free to play disorder games just for the hell of it. He becomes free to play neither or both. And as the master of his own games, he plays without fear, and therefore without frustration, and therefore with good will in his soul and love in his being.

Eris's power is strong, and her ways are predictably unpredictable. My wish for you is a hearty enjoyment of the pathless path that is Unitarian Universalism. May the Gods and Goddesses of your heart (if any) lead you!

Rev. Ron

President's Message

As I write this column for our summer edition, it is the day after our Annual Meeting. I was extremely pleased with the turnout and the participation at this meeting, especially when it came to discussing the budget for the coming year. Decisions were made at this meeting that will begin to shape the future of UUSIS. Namely, you approved the funding to allow our new interim minister to come on as a full-time hire. I am pleased to announce that Rev. Dawn Sangrey will be joining us on September 1. She comes to us following a seven year consulting ministry at the Fourth Unitarian Society of Westchester in Mohegan Lake, NY. She has an impressive background in social activism and environmentalism. She is committed to both Youth and Adult Religious Education. Rev. Dawn is very much looking forward to working with the Ministerial Search Committee, the Board, our other committees, and the general congregation in guiding us in our search for a new settled minister. And we are very much looking forward to having her as a part of the UUSIS family! Rev. Dawn will be visiting sporadically over the summer to get more familiar with our congregation in advance of her first day. She is planning on attending the Board/Committee Chairs retreat, and we hope to have a welcome reception for her prior to her first service at our September Homecoming.

Also over the summer, our Ministerial Search Committee will already be hard at work on the initial steps in the settled minister search process. One of the most important parts of this start-up is a survey that they will be mailing to the entire congregation. This survey is meant to get the pulse of the congregation regarding what we are all looking for in a settled minister and what each of us sees for the future of UUSIS. I strongly encourage your cooperation with the Search Committee in completing and returning these surveys. The more information they receive from you, the better idea they will have as to how to proceed over the course of the coming year. It is important that each of you has an equal voice in our future. But we can't hear your voice if you don't participate!

I wish you all a happy, relaxing and safe summer. I hope to see you at some of our summer services as well!

Joseph Gonzalez, Jr.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you to all those who have served on Committees and volunteered their time to UUSIS in 2009-2010!
If you should need anything or would like to join a committee for 2010-2011, please see:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers: President – Joseph Gonzalez (2009 – 2011), Vice President – Linda King (2010 – 2012),
Treasurer – Bob Sanders (2010 – 2011), Clerk – Diane Montgomery (2010 – 2012)

Trustees: Ellie deRidder (2009 – 2011), Amy Good (2009 – 2011), Neil Danilowicz (2010 – 2012), David Rasekh (2010 – 2012), Henry Brenner (2010 – 2012)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds: Neil Danilowicz	2010 – 2012
Pastoral Care Lay Ministry Team: Julie Punishill	2010 – 2012
Fellowship: Open Position	
Finance: Don Ehleben	2010 – 2012
Membership: Bonnie Currie	2010 – 2011
Religious Education: Dani Beltran	2010 – 2012
Religious Services: Co-Chairs Rolf Maurer and Bob Nixon	2010 – 2012
Social Action: Robin Gans	2009 – 2011

ELECTED COMMITTEES

Nominating: Carole Ehleben, Rolf Maurer, Open Position, Open Position, Open Position
Ministerial Search Committee: Daniel Beltran, Tara Fleck, Nancy Furnas, Maisie Kohnstamm,
Bob Nixon, Julie Punishill, Norris Wakefield

OTHER COMMITTEES

Publicity: Jeff King
Cancer Support Group: Julie Punishill
U UW: Shaw Stuart and Virginia Streitfeld
Pagan Group: Dee Rapposelli (organizer) Tara Fleck, Joe Gonzalez, Ariel Sirocco, Viki Keyes
By-Laws: Neil Danilowicz
Kitchen Sub-committee: Neil Danilowicz
Security Committee: Neil Danilowicz
Green Team: Open Position
Denominational Affairs: Diane Montgomery
Sunday Used Book Sale: Rolf Maurer and Bonnie Currie
Food Collection: Tara Fleck
Ladies Who Lunch: Bonnie Currie
PoemAlley: Bonnie Currie
UUSIS Movie Night: Joe Gonzalez, Jr.

BOARD APPOINTED POSITIONS

Historian: Dorothy Sonn
Photographer: Ray Mosher
Rental Coordinator: Diana Martinez and David Rasekh
Librarian: Karen Versanti

POSITION APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT: Director of Personnel: Open Position



CARE TEAM

We are a community committed to helping each other. Our ministers cannot be everywhere, so the Care Team is made up of interested members and friends trained in the basics of pastoral care like hospital visitation, issues surrounding grief and loss and confidentiality. Julie Punishill is the new Chair of the Care Team for this congregational year. If you know of someone who might need our services please contact Julie or the Care Team member on call for that month.

July: Alfa Drent, 203-323-9488
August: Amy Good, 203-981-2382

Rev. Ron will still be available for emergencies over the summer. Also, feel free to contact Julie on her cell 617-851-9773 or jpunishill@mac.com.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

For June, UUSIS donated 54 lbs. of food to The Food Bank!

Most Needed Food Items: Mashed Potatoes • Fruit Cocktail • Canned Tuna / Canned Chicken • Soups • Carnation Instant Breakfast • Breakfast Cereal • Peanut Butter / Grape Jelly • Juices • White or Brown Rice (2 Lb Bags) • Powdered or Parmalat Milk • Pasta • Jarred Spaghetti Sauce • Canned Stews • Canned Vegetables (Corn, Cut Green Beans) • Applesauce • Crackers • Dried Beans (Pinto Beans, Black Eyed Peas, Lentil, Kidney) • Macaroni & Cheese

PLEASE NO BABY FOOD OR PERISHABLES!

Food collections are held on the 1st Sunday of each month. We keep a basket in the kitchen for those who bring food on other days. Any questions, please see Tara Fleck.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are new to UUSIS, we have an event for you! We will have Welcome Dinners on July 16 and August 20 at 6:30pm in the Social Room. Please note that these details might change as we get closer to the dinners. Come and make some new friends over a simple supper. The purpose is to sit with someone that you don't already know—established members, new members, visitors. Please RSVP at coffee hour or by Evite in your e-mail.

If you are new and would like to share your faith journeys, and learn about the congregation's mission and vision, we are in the process of scheduling a New to Stamford UU workshop for late September/early October. Please see Caitlin to learn more.

We would like to welcome Ann, Cora, Darek and David to the Membership team. We greatly appreciate Kristin's very hard work as our Board Liaison—and hope that she will continue to bake cookies for the Welcome Dinners!!

Bonnie is looking forward to working with the new slate of leaders as she returns to being Membership Chair

Caitlin McConoughey and Bonnie Currie



Parish Minister – The Rev. Ron Sala
Community Minister – The Rev. ReBecca Ames Sala
Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Stan Aronson
Music Consultant – Maureen Ferrara Higle
Office Administrator/Newsletter Editor – Tara Fleck
Cleaning Crew – Marisol Romero

President – Joseph Gonzalez
Vice president – Linda King
Treasurer – Robert Sanders
Clerk – Diane Montgomery
Buildings and Grounds – Neil Danilowicz
Pastoral Care Lay Ministry Team – Julie Punishill
Committee on Ministry – Temporarily Suspended
Fellowship – *Open Position*
Finance – Don Ehleben
Membership – Bonnie Currie
Religious Education – Daniel Beltran
Religious Services: Robert Nixon & Rolf Maurer
Social Action – Robin Gans
Publicity – Jeff King
Green Team – *Open Position*
Denominational Affairs – Diane Montgomery
Historian – Dorothy Sonn
Photographer – Ray Mosher
Rental Coordinator – Diana Martinez
Director of Personnel – *Open Position*



**ENJOY THE
SUMMER!**

A FINAL THOUGHT...

“The future depends on
what we do in the present.”
— Mahatma Gandhi

LOST AND FOUND:

**IF YOU HAVE LOST ANYTHING AT
UUSIS, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE. ALL
UNCLAIMED ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO
GOODWILL. CONTACT THE OFFICE ASAP IF
YOU ARE MISSING ANYTHING.**

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

If you would like to submit an article to UUSIS News & Views, please e-mail admin@uusis.org or call (203)348-0708. Articles are due by the 15th of each month and should be fewer than 200 words.

The Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford

*20 Forest Street, Stamford, CT 06901
Phone: 203-348-0708 / Fax: 203-358-0029
Email: admin@uusis.org
Web: www.uusis.org*

PARISH MINISTER’S OFFICE HOURS FOR JULY & AUGUST:

You may call the Rev. Ron Sala on his mobile phone at 203-559-9620 between 9:00AM – 9:00PM. Emergency calls any time.

E-mail: ron.sala@uusis.org

OFFICE HOURS UNTIL JUNE 18:

Tue., Thurs., and Fri.: 9:00AM –12:00PM

E-mail: admin@uusis.org

THE OFFICE WILL REOPEN AUGUST 17.

